

AOC Newsletter

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Summer 1998

People Profiles

Paul F. Isaacs, Director

Paul Isaacs was born in Cincinnati and raised in the farming community of Somerset until he departed for Union College, Barbourville, Kentucky. Although his parents did not raise him and his siblings on a farm, Mr. Isaacs reports that his parents instilled the basic values associated with farming families, such as hard work and dependability. He attributes many of his values to his father, Samuel Isaacs who led by example. Samuel Isaacs was a man who had high standards for himself, and was always present and reliable. Mr. Isaacs' father was a private man who served in World War II and it wasn't until 1993 that Paul, along with his wife, brother and father, retraced his fathers steps in Europe and learned many of the stories that

had been silenced for so many years. Samuel Isaacs was actually the recipient of one purple heart and two bronze stars.

Having been raised with the farming ethic, it was natural for Paul to move onto his Scott County farm in 1973 with his wife, Anna. Their home was constructed in 1860 with a "new" addition being added in 1914. Paul and Anna have been married 30 years as of May 31st, 1998. Paul attributes Anna with much of his success and for being a stabilizing factor in his life. Anna has a private law practice in Scott County which she runs out of her home. Paul says that she is the "rancher" of the family and he is the "ranch hand."

After graduating from Union College where he remains a member of the Board of Trustees, Paul attended the University of Kentucky Law School and passed the bar exam in 1969. He then worked for a program entitled the Mountain Institute which was designed to address problems in Eastern Kentucky. He later worked for the Kentucky Juvenile Defender Program, and in 1973 he worked for the then newly developed Public Defender Program and as the Assistant Public Defender until 1976. In 1976 Paul worked

for the Justice Cabinet as their General Counsel. In 1983 he went on to become the State Public Advocate and returned to the Justice Cabinet serving as General Counsel and later as the Secretary for the Justice Cabinet in 1994. In May of 1995 he accepted the additional assignment as the Commissioner of the State Police. Paul joined the Administrative Office of the Courts in September 1995.

Director Isaacs was interviewed by Christopher Cecil.

Laura Stammel, Assistant Director

Fresh out of graduate school, Laura Stammel made a short term commitment to come to AOC and stay until our current system was implemented. Twenty-two years later, Laura is still with AOC. She has been Assistant Director since 1987.

Few people at AOC have as much responsibility or are as busy as Laura on a daily basis. She not only acts in place of the Director when he is absent, she is over the Print Shop and serves as Comptroller over the Accounting and Purchasing Departments. Laura has also, since the beginning of her position with AOC, been a point person who keeps up with what is going on during Legislative sessions. In fact, one of the biggest challenges of her job is trying to keep up with all her responsibilities during

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the sessions. Laura is hoping that having her new Administrative Specialist, Angie Morford, around for the next session will alleviate some of her stress, especially since she is going to be implementing the Empower Kentucky MARS System (state financial system) during the next year.

Laura really enjoys her position at AOC. If she has any frustration it is not having enough time to do everything that needs to be done.

Laura's hope for the future of AOC is that we can continue to be an innovative agency that supports the courts in a manner that makes the best use of the resources that we have.

Laura hales from Miami, Florida. She has a Bachelors degree in Government from Florida State University. Her Masters is in Political Science from the University of Kentucky.

When Laura wants to relax she spends time gardening, designing and decorating for her friends.

Laura Stammel was interviewed by Lisa Broadus

Budget Highlights:



****Salary Improvement Program was funded**

****A number of new court facility projects were authorized**

****Continuation Budget was approved including 5% increments**

****Funding was approved for additional Deputy Clerks:**

25 Deputies in the first year

15 Deputies in the second year

****Funding was approved for nine family courts**

****Fourteen additional Judgeships were funded**

Russ
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Assistant to



Director

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Graduating from the University of Louisville with a Bachelors of Arts degree in English and Humanities, Russ had aspirations of becoming an English teacher. Those feelings changed in 1991 when Russ began his career as a government employee, working as an aid to Governor Brereton Jones.

In his four years as an aid to the Governor, Russ enjoyed meeting people throughout the state. In fact, one of the most significant reasons Russ continued to work for government was the satisfaction he found in making a difference in the lives of Kentuckians.

Since joining AOC, Russ has been asked by Chief Justice Robert Stephens to head up the Jefferson County Technology program. Among other things, the new program will take advantage of all the technological improvement in the court system's criminal history database.

The Strategic Planning Initiative (SPI) has existed for nearly four months, and is focusing on the future of the AOC. Helping identify the mission, goals, and strengths of AOC are some of the key issues that are being discussed. In the future Russ would like to see AOC as an agency that delivers information to many other agencies and also gets recognition from other government branches.

Russ used an analogy from a study he had read. The court system was in the middle of an hour glass, with the police making arrests and sending people into the court system in bunches. The court system would then send them back out in bunches to either jails or probation offices. The problem is that the support is given at the beginning and the end of the hour glass, but there is little support in the middle. This is something that he would like to see changed in the future.

Russ really appreciates his opportunity to work with the staff at AOC, and the leadership given by the Chief Justice and Director.

Russ was interviewed by John Dobson on April 10, 1998.

Bosnian Official Visits Kentucky Court of Justice

During a recent visit to the United States, Dr. Fahrudin Rizvanbegovic, Minister of Education, Science, Culture, and Sport of the Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina met with Chief Justice Robert F. Stephens of the Kentucky Supreme Court and staff from the Administrative Office of the Courts to discuss the use of civic education programs in the Federation. Since 1996 Rizvanbegovic has worked with the Los Angeles based Center for Civic Education to establish Civitas@Bosnia-Herzegovina throughout the Federation. The goals of Civitas is to assist in the development of a political culture supportive to democratic values, principles, and institutions. AOC staff experienced in constitutional studies programs such as *"We the People"* and *"Project Citizen"* traveled to the Federation during summer 1997 to assist with the Civitas program. Rizvanbegovic noted, *"Democracy will not come to the Federation on its own. We need education, we need to realize that we must be patient, and we need citizens who are willing to participate in society. We must renovate our country based on the American philosophy of life."* When asked how he intended to expand civic education, the Minister indicated that Civitas would become a required course in every school, and that it should also be infused into other subjects. Rizvanbegovic intends to develop a weekly television series devoted to Civitas. He said, *"If we just teach the children, and ignore the parents, our efforts will not be fruitful. We must take advantage of the great aggressor (TV) that has conquered our homes."* is often the least understood branch of government, and needs to be supportive of and actively involved in civic education initiatives". Chief Justice Stephens has, since 1990, spearheaded the increasingly popular Kentucky Law Related Education Initiative. Rizvanbegovic indicated that they are trying to involve the judiciary in

Civitas. However, as a result of the Dayton Accords, there are many problems to resolve and intensive involvement of the judiciary may be delayed indefinitely. Stephens offered his assistance to Rizvanbegovic.

For more information about Civitas or the Kentucky initiatives, contact Deborah Williamson, Manger of the Division of Court-Community Relations, at the Administrative Office of the Courts.

Did you know

1. Rent for an apartment may be subject to theft by deception charges if it is proved that the intent to obtain the Service for free existed at the time the contract was signed.

2. A landlord may, by contract, reserve the right to bar from the premises tenants' invited guests who are causing a disturbance.

3. In jury selection, a party in a criminal trial may not strike the judge's secretary for cause where the secretary is otherwise qualified and was properly selected by the jury venire.

4. By statue in Kentucky, all licensed dogs are personal property and covered by the law against larceny. KRS 258.245 (2) makes it unlawful for any person to place poison in a place easily accessible to any dog. If a person is found guilty of KRS 258.245 (2) and the poisoned dog is licensed, the defendant is subject to the penalties of KRS 258.990 and 431.200 and thus can be subject to pay reparations to the owner of the dog. If the dog is not licensed, the defendant is subject only to the penalties of KRS 258.990 and the owner cannot obtain reparations.

Kate, from the Law Library, submitted these interesting facts.

First Annual Teen Court Conference Huge Success

"I thought the conference was extremely informative, it provided many helpful hints." "It was a good idea. It was also a good learning process." "The conference was more than I anticipated. Thank you for investing in our future."

These were just some of the comments made by Kentucky's First Annual Teen Court Conference attendees at the Holiday Inn, Frankfort on April 24, 1998. The conference was attended by teen court judges, student participants, coordinators, and out-of-state participants. Valeria Cummings of WKYT 27 acting as moderator, started the day by stating her views on teen violence and the effect teen court could have on it. Then Paula Nessel, a national teen court expert with the American Bar Association in Chicago, discussed how teen court is Law Related Education in "action." A highlight of the day was hearing the teen court participants perspective. Beth Parker of North Kentucky and Colmon Elridge of Harrison County gave their opinions about teen court, how it has changed their daily lives and provided them with direction for their futures.

A panel discussion, including Judge David Melcher, Judge Kevin Delahanty, Elizabeth Munson from North Carolina, Tracey Godwin of the American Probation & Parole, and Lolita Junk from Chicago, provided an interesting look at Kentucky's teen court program and what other states are doing.

The most productive part of the day were the breakout sessions. This gave the judges, students, and individuals interested in establishing new sites the opportunity to interact and brainstorm. The day's activities concluded with the Honorable Joseph E. Lambert of the Kentucky Supreme Court presenting each teen court judge with a banner for their courtroom and each coordinator with a symbol for our appreciation of their hard work.

We are looking forward to next year's conference. There is an open

invitation to the AOC if you wish to attend next year. We believe you will enjoy seeing such an innovative program in action.

Jeanie Lyles, Teen Court Coordinator

Court Comedy

A deputy clerk was waiting on a customer at the counter, preparing to issue a drivers license. The customer asked who he should make the check payable to. The deputy clerk responded "the Circuit Court Clerk or we'll stamp it." Later that day when the bookkeeper was working up the deposit she came across a check made payable to "Will Stampit"

Submitted by Donna Tucker from Court Services.



KENTUCKY SEVENTH IN THE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL MOCK TRIAL TOURNAMENT!

By: Christopher Cecil

On May 7-10, 1998 the 1998 High School Mock Trial Tournament commenced in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The case, based on the Tony Hillerman novel *Dance Hall of the Dead*, involved two boys who lived on the Zuni Pueblo and whose bodies were found after allegedly being murdered by a known heroin dealer, Tex Halsey. The case was full of intrigue as each team of attorneys had significant challenges to overcome in an effort to represent their clients.

The prosecution was faced with the fact that no one witnessed the murder and no finger prints were found on the murder weapon. There were a number of other potential suspects that could have committed the murders as well, including: an FBI agent who wanted to "get" Tex for double crossing him; and anthropologist who may have wanted to keep the boys quiet after they found out about his unethical behavior of "salting a dig site."

The defense also faced challenges. Their client had been heard making veiled threats against the boys because they knew too much about his drug trade. The authorities also found the murder weapon and other incriminating evidence pointing to their client.

The Montgomery County High School Mock Trial Team had to be prepared to represent either side of the case and they challenged formidable opponents. They won three out of four trials: 3-0, 1-2, 3-0, 2-1, winning nine of 12 possible ballots.

The team was sponsored by Jon Mansfield and their attorney coach was Grover Carrington. Accompanying the

team to New Mexico were AOC staff members Christopher Cecil and Faye Dodson.

A GLANCE AT THE ADOPTION AND SAFE FAMILIES ACT

By Patrick Yewell

Many of you have heard a great deal about the Adoption and Safe Families Act of 1997, Public Law 105-89 (ASFA). This federal law was signed by President Clinton in the fall of 1997. The ASFA key principles are:



1. Safety is paramount.

- Law is explicit about safety.
- Clarifies reasonable efforts.
- Requires criminal record checks.
- Timely decisions need to be made when children are languishing for very long periods of time.

2. Foster care is temporary.

- Affirms reunification as a viable option.
- Establishes a new requirement for reasonable efforts for permanency.
- Establishes adoption incentive payments for states.
- Radically changes time frames for decision making.
- Shorten time frames.
- Permanency determinations within 12 months instead of 18 months.
- Initiate TPR for children who have been in care for 15 of the last 22 months unless it is not in the child's best interest.
- Extends health coverage to children with medical needs who have an adoption assistance agreement.
- Adopted children can maintain IV-E eligibility following the death of their

adoptive parent(s) or a disruption in the prior adoption.

3. Permanency planning begins immediately.

- Reauthorizes FP/S as "The Safe and Stable Families Program."
- Adds two new services: time-limited reunification services and post legal adoption services.

4. Focus on results.

- Move from process to outcomes.
- Report to Congress annually on state performances.
- Report to Congress on developing a performance based incentive funding system.

HB 142, signed by the Governor on March 17, 1998, is Kentucky's response to this federal act.



CALL FOR ARTICLES

The AOC newsletter is made possible by all those who contribute articles from their departments. Those of us on the work group sincerely appreciate all of you who have helped us in this endeavor.

The newsletter has not been on the schedule we had hoped for. In an effort to produce the newsletter more efficiently, please note the following schedule for upcoming editions:

Autumn:

Articles due: *October 1*

Edition released: *Oct. 15*

Winter:

Articles due: *Jan. 1, 1999*

Edition released: *Jan. 15*

It will be very helpful if you format your article into 3 columns and E-Mail them to Christopher Cecil.

Thank you again. We look forward to receiving your articles.



Deborah Williamson has been named General Manager of the newly created Youth, Families and Community Services Department of the AOC.

Christopher Cecil has been named Supervisor of Court Community Relations.

Jim Columbia, CDW; Diana Douglass, CDW; and Wanda Maddox, CDW are now Field Supervisors and Lisa Broaddus is Central Office Coordinator.

We wish them the best!!!!



RECEIPT FOR A FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP

INGREDIENTS:

4 Cups Intelligence
2 Cups Ability
1 Tbsp Good Attitude
2 Cups (non-beaten) Patience
4 Cups Generosity
1 3/4 Cups (Sifted) Initiative
1 1/2 Cups Equilibrium
1 1/2 Cups Talent
1 Pint Comprehension
1 Cup Tact
1 Cup Assertiveness
1 Cup Sense of Humor

Ensure all ingredients are brought to room temperature before mixing. Mix together intelligence, talent, and comprehension.

Next, mix ability, and good attitude, just to the point of being consistent.

Gradually, add in equilibrium and generosity.

Mix well, initiative and tact.

Beat patience until a soft mixture.

Mix together all ingredients, generously sprinkling with good humor.

Bake in oven of determination until golden.

Temper and cover with good sense.

When serving, pour over a sauce of assertiveness.

(Author unknown)